



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Advancing Macomb Strengthens Board With Two Well-Known Community Leaders

Mount Clemens, Mich. (Jan. 20, 2026) – [Advancing Macomb](#), a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents, has appointed two prominent community leaders to its board of directors.

The new board members are **Melissa Roy** and **Sumaiya Ahmed Sheikh**, who will each serve a three-year term in support of the board's mission to provide thoughtful civic leadership and strengthen community development across the region.

Roy is the founder of Roy Public Affairs, serving clients across the private, public and nonprofit sectors. Before launching her firm, Roy founded Advancing Macomb, helping establish the organization as a foundational leadership entity focused on elevating Macomb County's assets and philanthropic investment. She previously served as assistant county executive for Macomb County, leading public affairs and communications. She began her career at the Detroit Regional Chamber, focusing on economic development, research, public policy and government relations. Roy currently also serves on the Six Rivers Land Conservancy board.

"Advancing Macomb is a critical link to increasing philanthropic support in Macomb County. I'm excited to work with Phil, the Advancing Macomb team and our fellow board members," said Roy.

Sheikh is the Executive Director of Kalasho Education Youth Services, where she leads initiatives focused on empowering New American and underserved communities through mental health and wellness, education, mentorship and advocacy. She previously served as head of engagement for appointments in the Executive Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, where she played a key role in advancing diverse representation across state leadership. Her background also includes leadership roles with the Oakland County Democratic Party, Michigan's Campus Vote Project, YMCA, Emgage, AAPI Victory Fund and the Michigan Community Council.

"I'm honored to join the Advancing Macomb board and excited to support an organization that mobilizes leadership and resources to solve real community challenges and strengthen nonprofits as a vital bridge between opportunity and need," said Sheikh.

"We are thrilled to welcome Melissa and Sumaiya to the Advancing Macomb board of directors," said Phil Gilchrist, executive director of Advancing Macomb. "Both bring deep experience, strong community connections and a shared commitment to advancing opportunity and



collaboration across Macomb County. Their leadership will be invaluable as we continue to grow our impact."

About Advancing Macomb

Advancing Macomb is a 501c3 that convenes resources to solve community challenges and enrich the lives of Macomb County residents. The organization provides the philanthropic model and leadership needed to cement partnerships between the nonprofit, public and private sectors, identify and attract resources to fund major projects and programs, and increase Macomb County visibility. For more information about Advancing Macomb, visit advancingmacomb.com.

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